

LESSONS 3 AND 4

Position

LESSON 3

Nihil legebat quod non exciperet.

He read nothing from which he did not pluck something.

—PLINY THE YOUNGER

Key Words

compound
excerpt
exhilarate

exonerate
exorbitant
exposition
expound

impose
impostor
proponent

EX <L. "from," "out of"

1. **excerpt** (ěk'sûrpt) [*carpere* <L. "to pick," "to pluck," "to seize"]
n. A passage selected from a book, play, piece of music, etc.

Our anthology contains thousands of **excerpts** from literature around the world.

tr. v. To take a passage from a book, etc.; to quote.

The students **excerpted** their favorite numbers from *Cats* to perform at the variety show.

Familiar Words

exact
exaggerate
examination
excellent
exception
excite
exclaim
excrescence
excuse
exercise
exodus
expand
expect
experience
explain
expletive
express
extend
exult

Challenge Words

exalt
excavate
excise
exorcise
explicit
exploit
extant
extricate
exuberant

2. exhilarate (ěg zĭl'ə rāt, ĭg zĭl'ə rāt)

[*hilaris* <L. "cheerful," "happy";

hilaros <G. "cheerful," "happy"]

tr. v. To cheer; to stimulate; to enliven.

Her critically acclaimed performance at the opening of the 1961 season of the Metropolitan Opera must have **exhilarated** Leontyne Price.

exhilarated, *adj.*; **exhilaration**, *n.*

**3. exonerate** (ěg zŏn'ə rāt) [*onus* <L. "burden," "load"]

tr. v. 1. To free from blame.

When new evidence **exonerated** the accused forger, the bank president reinstated him at a higher salary.

2. To relieve of a task.

As a reward for their hours of babysitting, their parents **exonerated** them from mowing the lawn.

exonerated, *adj.*; **exoneration**, *n.*

4. exorbitant (ěg zŏr'bə tənt, ĭg zŏr'bə tənt) [*orbita* <L. "route"]

adj. Excessive.

The rhinoceros is in danger of becoming extinct because of the **exorbitant** price poachers receive for the animals' horns.

exorbitance, *n.*; **exorbitancy**, *n.*; **exorbitantly**, *adv.*

PONO, PONERE, POSUI, POSITUM <L. "to place," "to put"**5. compound** (kŏm pound') [*com* = *cum* <L. "with," "together"]

tr. v. To mix together; to combine two or more parts or elements.

The Kirov Ballet of the former Soviet Union **compounded** its traditional style with contemporary music and dance from other countries.

adj. (kŏm'pound) Having two or more parts or elements.

A **compound** sentence has two or more main clauses, as in "We ran fast, but they caught us."

n. A combination of elements, parts, or substances.

Steel is a **compound**, or alloy, of iron, carbon, and other substances such as copper, cobalt, and silicon.



Familiar Words

composition
deposit
dispose
expose
oppose
positive
postpone
posture
preposition
proposal
propose
suppose
transpose

Challenge Words

appositive
component
composite
depose
exponent
interpose
provost
repository

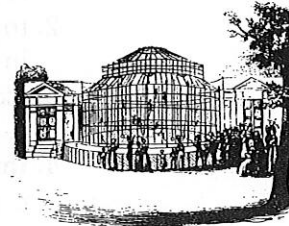
6. **exposition** (ĕk'spə zīsh'ən) [*ex* < L. "from," "out of"]
n. 1. A precise statement or explanation.

With both written text and 1,065 colored illustrations, John James Audubon's *Birds of America*, published in 1838, remains a model **exposition** on the subject.

2. A public exhibit or show.

The first international **exposition** was held in London's Crystal Palace in 1851.

expository, *adj.*



7. **expound** (ĕk spound', ĭk spound') [*ex* < L. "from," "out of"]
tr. and *intr. v.* To set forth an explanation or view of something in detail (usually used with *on*).

The travelers **expounded** on the animals they saw on their safari in Kenya.

8. **impose** (ĭm pōz') [*im* = *in* < L. "in"]
tr. v. To set up, or to force something (or oneself) on others.

Under apartheid, the South African government **imposed** laws that granted different rights to people based on the color of their skin.

intr. v. To take unfair advantage of someone.

In the play *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, a guest who breaks his hip when departing **imposes** on his hosts for six months.

imposed, *adj.*; **imposition**, *n.*

NOTA BENE: The adjective *imposing* has a different meaning from the forms given above, a favorable one: "impressive" and "awe-inspiring." For example, An *imposing* figure physically, Paul Robeson was even more impressive for his talents as scholar, athlete, actor, and singer.

9. **impostor** (ĭm pōs'tər) [*im* = *in* < L. "in"]
n. One who deceives by using a false identity.

The wife of Martin Guerre wonders if the man claiming to be Martin is really her husband returning after eight years or an **impostor**.



10. **proponent** (prə pō'nənt) [*pro* < G. "before"]
n. One who argues in support of something.

Proponents of recycling newsprint, glass, and aluminum have found citizens more willing to cooperate than they expected.

Antonym: **opponent**